

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because FIG. 1 was not designated as prior art.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Claims 1-7, 19-22, 27, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saitoh et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,604,775 (hereinafter "Saitoh").

Claims 23-26 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Sung et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,437,650 (hereinafter "Sung") in view of Saitoh.

Claims 32-35 are allowed and claims 8-18 and 37-40 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have canceled claims 18, 20, 22, and 37 without prejudice. Claims 1, 7-9, 23, 24, 28, 29, 32, and 36 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments.

Amendments to the Drawings

Please approve the following amendment to FIG. 1 as indicated in red on the attached copy (Appendix A) of the informal drawing for FIG. 1:

Add text "Prior art."

A full set of formal drawings will be filed after the above amendment to FIG. 1 has been approved by the Examiner.

A full set of formal drawings will be submitted after the amendment to FIG. 1 has been approved by the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable claims and subject matter in this application.

The Examiner's objection and rejections are respectfully traversed.

III. Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because FIG. 1 was not designated as prior art. Applicants have amended FIG. 1 to designate it as prior art. The Examiner's objection should therefore be withdrawn.

IV. Applicants' Reply to the § 112 Rejections

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Claims 18, 20, 22, 37 have been canceled without prejudice. The rejection of claims 18, 20, 22, and 37 is moot and should therefore be withdrawn.

The Examiner contends that claims 1, 32, and 36 are unclear for containing the phrase "particular net number."

Applicants have amended the phrase "particular net number" in claims 1, 32, and 36 to "selectable net number." Applicants have also amended these claims to make it clear that the net number is a quantity than is counted (e.g., by the phase comparator in claims 1 and 32, or in the counting step in claim 36). Applicants have still further amended these claims to specify that the selectable net number is determined by a bandwidth control signal. Amended claims 1, 32, and 36 are therefore no longer indefinite and the rejection of them under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should accordingly be withdrawn.

The Examiner contends that claim 8 is unclear because "the programmable logic circuit is not connected to anything" (Office Action, page 3). Applicants have amended claim 8 to indicate that the programmable logic circuit is operatively coupled between the up down counter and the setting counter. Amended claim 8 is therefore no longer indefinite and the rejection of it under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should accordingly be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 10, 33, and 38, the Examiner contends that "it is unclear what the 'user inputs' are and how they are read on the preferred embodiment or seen in the drawings" (Office Action, page 3). FIGS. 2 and 3 both show "BDWTH CNTRL." Paragraph [0035] of the specification

expressly states that "BDWTH CNTRL may be provided directly by user inputs. ... Alternatively, instead of from user inputs, BDWTH CNTRL may also be provided by RAM bits in the PLD, or by any other suitable source." From this disclosure (drawings and specification), it would be completely clear to anyone of ordinary skill in the art that a user input can be a signal applied to the device that includes the claimed circuitry (or that performs the claimed method steps). The § 112 rejection of claims 10, 33, and 38 is therefore unfounded and should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 11, 34, and 39, the Examiner contends that "it is unclear what the [RAM bits] are and how they are read on the preferred embodiment or seen in the drawings" (Office Action, page 3). The paragraph immediately above is equally applicable to this rejection. Again, FIGS. 2 and 3 clearly show "BDWTH CNTRL", and the above-quoted portion of the specification expressly states that these signals "may also be provided by RAM bits in the PLD...." This disclosure would be completely clear to anyone of ordinary skill in the art, so that there is no basis for the § 112 rejection of claims 11, 34, and 39.

With respect to claims 12, 35, and 40, the Examiner contends that "it is unclear how the bandwidth control signal can be adjustable during operation since no means for

performing adjusting function is recited in [these] claim[s]" (Office Action, page 3). As discussed above, FIG. 3 shows the "BDWTH CNTRL" signals, and paragraph [0035] of the specification expressly states that these signals may be "provided directly by user inputs." Paragraph [0040] goes on to talk about "adjusting BDWTH CNTRL" and how that can be used to affect operation of the circuitry. There is therefore ample support in the drawings and specification for claims 12, 35, and 40. The § 112 rejection of these claims should therefore be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 23, the Examiner contends that "the recitation 'a programmable logic device' on line 5 is confusing because it is unclear if this is an additional 'logic device' or a further recitation of the previously claimed 'logic device'" (Office Action, page 3). Applicants have amended "a programmable logic device" to "the programmable logic device." Therefore, claim 23 is not indefinite and the § 112 rejection of claim 23 should be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 28 and 29, the Examiner contends the recitation [an integrated circuit] is confusing because it is unclear if this is an additional [integrated circuit] or a further recitation of the previously claimed [integrated circuit]" (Office Action, page 3). Applicants

have amended claims 28 and 29 to change "an integrated circuit" to "the integrated circuit." Therefore, claims 28 and 29 are not indefinite and the § 112 rejection of claims 28 and 29 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner contends claim 32 is unclear because "no means for performing the adjusting function is recited in the claim" (Office Action, page 3). Claim 32 has been amended to make it clear that the compensation component is the means for adjusting the internal clock signal. Therefore, claim 32 is not indefinite for not including means for performing the adjusting function and the § 112 rejection of claim 32 should be withdrawn.

V. Applicants' Reply to the § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-7, 19-22, 27, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saitoh et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,604,775 (hereinafter "Saitoh").

Applicants have canceled claims 20 and 22 without prejudice. The rejection of claims 20 and 22 is moot and should therefore be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to specify that "the selectable net number is determined by a bandwidth control signal." The Examiner indicated that this feature was allowable for a corresponding method specified in claim 37 (see Office Action, page 6). Therefore, amended

independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art. Claims 2-7, 19, 21, and 27, which depend from amended independent claim 1, are also allowable over the prior art at least because amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art.

Applicants have amended independent claim 36 to incorporate the features of dependent claim 37 (which has now been canceled). Amended independent claim 36 is allowable over the prior art at least because the Examiner indicated that former dependent claim 37 was allowable over the prior art (see Office Action, page 6).

Accordingly, claims 1-7, 19, 21, 27, and 36 are allowable over Saitoh. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

VI. Applicants' Reply to the § 103 Rejection

Claims 23-26 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Sung et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,437,650 (hereinafter "Sung") in view of Saitoh.

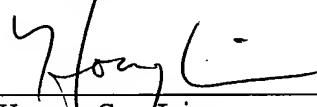
Claims 23-26 and 28-31, which depend from amended independent claim 1, are allowable over the prior art at least because amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art.

Accordingly, claims 23-26 and 28-31 are allowable over Sung in view of Saitoh. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-17, 19, 21, 23-36, and 38-40 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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